PREPARING TO QUIT

Vance Held Top Contender to Fill Gilpatric's Post

By JACK RAYMOND

Special to The New York Times WASHINGTON, Oct. 3--Dep-

Derense Secretary Roswell L. Gilpatric, who had planned to return to private business last spring, is now scheduled to leave the Pentagon around Christmas.

Mr. Gilpatric, a lawyer, stayed at his post because of the TFX airplane controversy, in which he has been a leading figure.

He participated in awarding the contract for the TFX (tactical fighter, experimental) to the General Dynamics Corporation despite the recommendations of military leaders who favored the Boeing Company.

Mr. Gilpatric has been awaiting a call to testify before the the Pentagon is expected. Sto-Senate Permanent Subcommitted the Pentagon is expected. Sto-Senate Permanent Subcommitted the Pentagon is expected. Sto-Senate Permanent Subcommitted the Pentagon is expected. bearings on the contract have set a date to end his present been suspended while the pane assignment. Like Mr. Gilpatric, is hearing testimony on syndine is a lawyer. cated crime.

Nitze's Chances Decline

One consequence of Mr. Gilpatric's delayed departure, according to an authoritative source, is that Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul H. Nitzer is no longer the leading control of the Pentagon Monday.

Mr. Imirie, who was in charge of Air Force materiel, has taken a position with Litton Industries Inc., in California. tender for the post of Deputy Defense Secretary.



DELAYS RESIGNATION: Roswell L. Gilpatric, the Deputy Defense Secretary

Alles to Give Up Post

Another major departure from

No successor has yet been named for Assistant Sectary of the Air Force Joseph S. Imirie, who left the Pentagon Monday.

Few Major Changes

efense Secretary.

The No. 2 man in the defense command of the Defense De-

Defense Secretary.

The No. 2 man in the defense Department is a deputy in practice as well as by title while the No. 2 man in other department has been spared many important changes since the Kennets of Cabinet rank is known as under secretary. The unusual authority of the Deputy Defense Secretary permits him to make important decisions even when the Secretary is not absent.

Mr. Nitze, who is head of the Pentagon's International Security Affairs Division, was considered last spring as the certain successor to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and he was expected to be named Deputy Secretary first. It appears, however, that Secretary of the Army Cyrus R. Vance is now the leading contender for Deputy Secretary. The decision by President Kennedy Administration took over in 1961.

Secretary McNamara, for example, has already served longer than any Secretary of Charles E. Wilson in the Eisenhower Administration. Mr. McElroy, who served 26 months in office, compared with Mr. Wilson's 56. Except for Neil H. McElroy, who served 26 months, none of the six other men to hold the job since it was reated in 1947 has served onger than 18 months.

Mr. Gilpatric, who joined the Administration with Secretary McNamara in January, 1961, has already stayed in his post longer than any other Deputy Defense Secretary, is expected to be made shortly.

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ecome a senior partner in the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City.

Mr. Ailes, a partner in the Washington law firm of Steptoc & Johnson, was named Under **CPYRGHT**

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